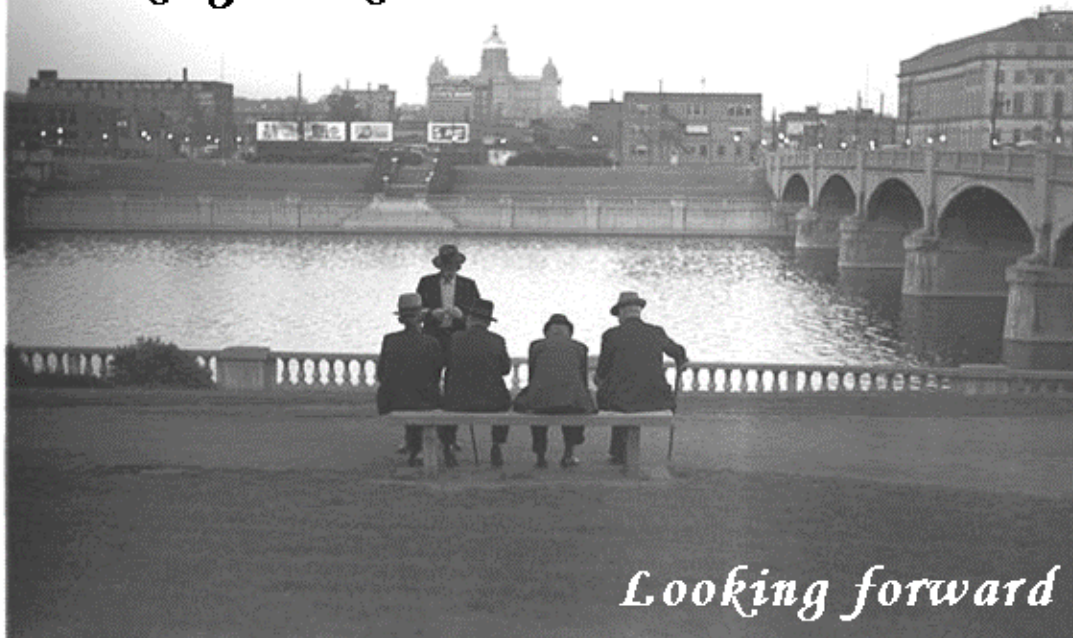


Looking back...



Looking forward

Photo: Library of Congress Collection

Every day...

you reflect on the past and its accomplishments, and examine how to shape the future. As community leaders, as inspired entrepreneurs, as dedicated historians and preservationists, you are always looking back ... and looking forward.

That is why we are seeking your input into the future of the Capitol Complex and its place in Des Moines as a city, and in the state as place of service, knowledge and inspiration to all of our citizens.

The Iowa Department of Administrative Services is hosting a brainstorming session on Tuesday, October 24, 2006. We welcome your input on the future planning of the Capitol Complex, including the West Capitol Terrace project that is in progress on the west side of the Capitol, and the creation of a Capitol Complex Visitors' Center. As we look for consensus and direction, we invite you to participate in this brainstorming discussion to gather your thoughts and ideas.

The discussion will be held **October 24, 2006, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon** at the State Historical Museum. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. outside of the Auditorium on the main floor. Parking is available in the East Grand parking ramp, across from the Historical Museum.

We'll start with a unique opportunity to look back at history and see the visual changes on the Capitol Complex and the East Village area. Attached is additional background on the decisions we currently face. More information and a list of prepared questions will be sent to you in advance of the meeting.

If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send a representative in your place.

Please RSVP by Friday, October 20 to Rose Mary Pratt at 515-281-0887 or Rose.Mary.Pratt@iowa.gov.

We hope you will be able to join us on October 24 and we look forward to hearing your ideas.

Looking back, looking forward ...

In 1875, architect Alfred H. Piquenard declared his vision for Iowa's State Capitol building:

"A building built to last centuries...a public building...the most important and costly built by the great State of Iowa, and destined to represent to future generations the degree of culture, intelligence, wealth and public spirit of our times..."

Many changes have taken place on the Capitol Complex since the completion of its grand epicenter in 1886. Now, 120 years later, the Capitol Complex is on the brink of additional, major developments. The Iowa Department of Administrative Services is looking to capture the public spirit and sentiment and infuse those ideas into future plans for the Capitol grounds.



State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines

One of the most notable projects, already underway, is the West Capitol Terrace project – the transformation of the grounds west of the Capitol Building from parking lots into a public park. The first phase of this project is scheduled for completion by June 2007. As plans for Phases II and III are brought into focus, we seek to integrate the developmental plans of the city and public's vision for the future. Moreover, the future of the West Capitol Terrace now includes the possibility of a Capitol Complex Visitors' Center. The Iowa Department of Administrative Services is exploring the use of the historic row house properties located on East Locust Street, as well as the building on Des Moines Street commonly referred to as the Carriage House, in addition to existing resources as potential sites to welcome the more than 100,000 visitors who annually come to the Iowa State Capitol.



Brian Clark + Associates

The State Capitol is Iowa's most important piece of real estate. More than \$80 million has been spent on its restoration, and additional funding has been committed to the restoration of the grounds that complement and highlight the Capitol Building. The ongoing renaissance in the East Village, the city of Des Moines' downtown revitalization, and riverfront development bring into focus the role of the State and how the Capitol Complex can be integrated into the vision that shapes the future of our capital city.

To refine the view for the future, we are asking for your involvement in a brainstorming process to determine possible next steps – steps that will celebrate our history and the future. This discussion will be held **October 24, 2006, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon** at the State Historical Museum. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. outside of the Auditorium on the main floor. Please RSVP by Friday, October 20 to Rose Mary Pratt at 515-281-0887 or Rose.Mary.Pratt@iowa.gov.